

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.

SATURDAY : : : : : JUNE 3.

IMPORTING SNAKES.

The course of A. V. Gear in importing venomous and other snakes to these Islands can only be explained on the ground that the reptile of Hawaii as a safe place of residence is of less account to him than a few extra dimes. For eighty years the people of this group have opposed the landing of serpents and have succeeded in keeping them out, even when a non-poisonous variety was sought to be introduced by Dr. Hillebrand to abate the rat pest in the cane fields. We had supposed the question of snakes for Hawaii was no longer open. It is not pleasant to know that there is any civilized man in the Islands who would now undertake to bring snakes here for any purpose in view of their liability to escape.

Snakes breed fast enough in countries where the warm weather is confined to three months in the year; but here, in tropical jungles and forests, in warm pastures and valleys and in the very yards of the town they would soon be everywhere underfoot, a curse to existence, as they are in Martinique. Whether venomous or otherwise, a snake population would prove to be the worst bane Hawaii could have. There is an attempt by some one who is flatly described as a zoologist—a hired man of Gear's—to demonstrate that snakes are needed here to destroy noxious insects and animals; but if there is anything so noxious in Hawaii as a snake, unless it be a snake-importing "zoologist" or his employer, we have yet to learn it.

It is the boast of the Zoo people that they will have plenty of snakes here in the course of a few months. Evidently they mean to get a permit if they can, but if the authorities do their duty the ruling of the Treasury Department will not only be enforced, but it will be strengthened to include serpents of every kind.

TEAR DOWN THE SIGNS.

There was some talk, a little time ago, about the Kilohana Art League taking in hand the matter of the hideous signs that have begun to disfigure the beauties of the landscapes about Honolulu. It was even said that in the case of one of these signs, a particularly atrocious one, the Streets Committee of the Art League, having its attention called particularly to that one, would probably take action. The plan, as it was broached, was to rent a bit of ground right in front of the sign, erect a skeleton frame, and train a bougainville vine upon it. The plan proposed would be perfectly feasible, and the ground rent probably cheap. And, if the Art League were to take the matter in hand, of course the thing would be done.

But it seems that the member of the league who promised to have the case looked into must have forgotten about it—or something. Because the sign is still there, as large as life, and quite as ugly and unattractive, and there is never a trace anywhere visible of the frame upon which it was proposed to train the bougainville—or was it a Virginia creeper that was to do the business? Either would answer the purpose. Even a hop vine would do it. Because any kind of foliage would chime in with the landscape better than that disfiguring sign.

And it is to be hoped that the Art League will seriously look into this matter. Its members can be very sure that they will have public sympathy. It is no light thing, the preservation of the natural beauty of Honolulu. It is a matter that we are all interested in—and we are all trying to do it, too. All but the vandals who advertise their wares atrociously.

THE COUNTY LAW.

The county law having been sustained in the face of the opposition of those who must foot the bills, the next development of graft will be a municipal measure, giving "local self-government" to Honolulu and Hilo. It was proposed last year to incorporate the idea of city with county government, as is done in San Francisco, Chicago and elsewhere, but the job-chasers hooted down the idea. They wanted one more short-cut to the treasury and long before the next Legislature convenes they will be surveying the route and macadamizing the road.

It is a condition and not a theory that confronts us now and, unless the whole office-seeking conspiracy is to succeed, the Civic Federation had better get in and name a ticket which conservative citizens can support. The Democrats had a chance to do so and threw it to the dogs. It is for such duties that the Civic Federation was organized and the disgusted taxpayers look to it now to lead the way. Otherwise the entire game of graft, dating so far back, will win.

Mr. Frederick J. Haskin's third letter on Hawaii will be a feature of the Sunday Advertiser. These sub-heads will show its scope: Social and Domestic Features of the American Woman's Life in Hawaii—Novel Swimming Parties Where Refreshments Are Served to the Submerged Bathers—Description of a Native Feast—Guests Are Served With Live Shrimps and Raw Fish—The Mixed Marriages—Chinamen Make Good Husbands, But Eventually Desert Their Families—The Court of Ex-Queen Lil—An Unpublished Poem by Robert Louis Stevenson. Mr. Haskin will give us one more Hawaiian letter, finishing the series, and will then begin his Asiatic correspondence.

Count Kato, formerly Japan's Minister to Great Britain, gives Russia cold comfort in the matter of peace terms. He says: "Should Russia ask for peace, we shall insist upon an unconditional armistice and when the negotiations are opened we shall require Russia to return Manchuria to China, recognize our sovereignty over Korea, transfer Saghalien to us, remove permanently the fortifications of Vladivostok and pay an indemnity of at least 2,000,000,000 yen (\$1,000,000,000). Such liberal terms will afford no occasion for intervention."

The Advertiser's Washington correspondent says that John McGuire did not recommend any specific measure for enactment by Congress. This is gently diverting, but if John had done so it would have stood a much better chance of passing than a recommendation for any specific measure by his friend Pinkham.

I have searched the seas and found nothing left—Admiral Togo.

That is an historic phrase worthy to be put beside Nelson's "England expects every man to do his duty," and Farragut's "D—n the torpedoes, go ahead!"

YOUNG CHINESE ENGAGE IN DEBATE

The Literary Society's entertainment at Mills Institute last evening was an interesting and instructive affair, and to the students was one of the great events of the year's work. The program comprised addresses by various officers of the Literary Society, that of Mr. Sing Lee, the president, being a historical sketch of the society, one of whose objects was to stimulate the members in the use of English. The real interest of the evening was centered on the debate, the topic being: "Resolved, That the system of Chinese contract labor proposed by Governor Carter in his report to the Secretary of the Interior is desirable for the Chinese."

Affirmative—Messrs. Arthur Akina and Ah Miu.
Negative—Messrs. Ching Yet and Ting Young.

The honors rested with the negative side and especially with Ting Young, the smallest and youngest speaker, who proved to be apt with his tongue.

BAND CONCERTS FOR THREE OCCASIONS

The Sunday concert will take place at 3 p. m. at Makee Island. This afternoon the band will play at the baseball games. The Monday evening concert will be held at the Moana Hotel instead of Emma Square. Following is the Sunday concert program:

PART I.

"The Old Hundred."
Grand March—"Hawaii Nei"
Overture—"A Queen of a Day"
Intermezzo—"The Victorious Japs"
.....Couvelard
Grand Selection—"Lucia"
.....Donizetti

PART II.

Selection—"I Puritani"
Grand Cortège—"The Ruins of Athens"
Intermezzo—"Moonlight"
Overture—"Fra Diavolo"
.....Auber
"The Star Spangled Banner"

READ THE ADVERTISER—
WORLD'S NEWS DAILY.

COL. MACFARLANE FINANCED DITCH

Col. George W. Macfarlane, who went to the coast several months ago to syndicate the Kohala Ditch Co., returned yesterday on the Siberia and is registered at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. He returned here to complete the details of the syndicate arrangements. The financing of the proposition was done through the Anglo-Californian Bank and other financial friends in San Francisco.

As soon as the actual cost of construction is known, which will be ascertained towards the end of the year, the bonds of the Ditch company will be issued. Engineer O'Shaughnessy has the whole work well under way, and the ditch will be constructed within the estimated time.

As to hotel matters Col. Macfarlane says he has a proposition to acquire the Royal Hawaiian Hotel again but has not perfected arrangements. The sale of the Hawaiian Annex at Wai-kiki beach is a matter of the Macfarlane estate being cleared up. Col. Macfarlane foreclosing on a mortgage which he holds. The beach property will probably remain in the hands of the Macfarlanes.

The great breach in the friendship between Edwin Booth and Lawrence Barrett occurred when Barrett was playing "The Man of Ajarlee" in Booth's theatre. The piece did not draw, and Booth decided to have it discontinued. So (as he afterward told of the incident) he broached the subject to Barrett, who immediately grew angry. "Do you mean to say that I can't play it," he demanded hotly. Booth assured him, in a conciliatory way, that he gave the first part fairly, but not the last. In a greater passion than ever, Barrett repeated: "Do you mean to say that I can't play it?" Booth, still trying to not offend him, said: "I don't think you have quite worked into the last act." Then Barrett's fury burst its bounds, and he terminated a torrent of invective with the remark: "Your father's weakness and your brother's crime placed you where you are. But I will live to see you in the gutter, and will stand above you." In spite of this, the two grew to be friends again, and starred in the combination that drew the biggest houses of the time.

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Mr. George Fountain, of Mt. Torrens, So. Australia, sends his photograph and this interesting letter:
"I had a very bad case of eczema. Medical men had told me nothing more could be done. I tried several blood remedies, but without relief. The eruption was over the whole of my body and arms. My friends told me I must try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. To please them, I did so. To tell the truth, I did not have much confidence in it. I had tried so many medicines. To my great surprise, I found that after only one bottle the scales were beginning to disappear. It took just five bottles to make a complete cure. My skin is now perfectly smooth, and not a trace do I have of my former trouble."

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